(i) Raising of the wage ceiling for eligibility to bonus and enhancement in the quantum of bonus payable under the payment of Bonus Act, 1965.

(ii) Making the ESI Scheme optional for the industrial workers.

The question of raising the wage ceiling and increasing the quantum of bonus under the payment of Bonus Act, 1965 has been examined. But in view of the over all financial position of the country, it has been decided continue with the existing limits.

The ESI Scheme is a Social Security Scheme based upon the concept of "pooling of risks and resources". Therefore, the question of making the scheme optional does not arise.

Shortage of coal

4042. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an actute shortage of coal used in foundries in the western region of Maharashtra, eastern region of Bihar and West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government propose to take for restoring the regular supply of coal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c) Coal India Limited (CIL) have reported that they are not aware of any shortages of foundry coke in the Western Region of Maharashtra, Eastern Region of Bihar or in West Bengal. Apart from CIL, foundry coke is also being produced in the private sector and is also allowed to be imported.

Supply of Hard Coke is arranged by CIL by rail and road to the linked consumers against sponsorship, within the earmarked wagon ceiling limits and as per the programmes submitted. In case of rail shortfall, supplies by road are also arranged. The quantity of Hard Coke supplied for the year 1991-92 and during the period April-September, 1992 to various consumers in the State of Maharashtra, Bihar and West Bengal are given below:—

(Figures in '000' tonnes)
Date Provisional

	Maharashtra	Bihar	West Benga
1991-92	18	38	20
April—September, 1992	6	20	8

Providing employment in new coal projects

4043. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
SHRI CHHOTUBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide 30 per cent employment to unemployed in the case of new coal projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b) According to guidelines being followed by Coal India Limited to the extent new employment opportunities get created in a project for unskilled and